

MEETING BAD MAN'S BLUFF

Senator Tells How Liberal Exhibition of Guns Quelled Murders Spirit of Desperado.

"I have never seen a desperado, or man-killer, who, if he thought an antagonist were ready for him with weapons equal to his own, would not back out of a fight," remarked Senator Stewart, of Nevada, at the Arlington, to a Washington Post reporter.

"There was Sam Brown, the champion bad man of Nevada in the old days who was dreaded by the community about like the public here would dread the turning loose on the avenue of a Numidian lion. This Sam Brown was a giant, six feet four inches high, 250 pounds avoirdupois, and as ferocious a looking man as ever mortal eyes beheld. He looked more like a dangerous beast than a human being. Killing was his trade, and one winter in Virginia City he slew 16 men. Timid folks shuddered at the sight of him.

"Knowing that he was going to be present in a lawsuit in which I had been retained by a client, whose interests were opposed to the desperado, I thought it best on the day of the trial to put a couple of old-fashioned derringers in my overcoat pocket. Sure enough, Brown was on hand in the little room in which the case was heard, and when I saw him enter the idea came into my mind that he had come to make me his latest victim. His favorite weapon was a big bowie knife, and the knowledge that the villain meant to stab me to death made me feel exceedingly uncomfortable. It was enough to make the bravest heart quail. But I knew it would never do to show the creature that he had me scared, and, looking him squarely in the eye, I brought the pocket of my overcoat around to where he could see the full shape of both my derringers. My hand was grasping the handle, and I was ready to shoot on the second. These pistols shot with terrific force, and would knock down if they did not kill.

"He was watching me like a hawk and I saw his eye fall on the weapon. Before this he had been fumbling at his knife, but immediately he ceased and presently he walked out of the room. When the business was over I found him in the front of the house which was fitted up as a saloon in the act of taking a drink. With a smile intended to be amiable he advanced to meet me, holding out both hands and declaring that I was the sort of man he admired, invited me to join him. A week later he asked me to represent him in a mining suit."

FLAGS NEEDED ON HOTELS

Equipment of Hostelry Is Not Complete Unless Decorated with National Ensigns.

"No first-class metropolitan hotel is thoroughly equipped until it possesses an assortment of flags almost as complete as that of an admiral's flagship," remarked the manager of a prominent caravansary to the Philadelphia Record.

"The leading hotels in the great cities have use for flags of all nations some time or other. Hotels are pretty nearly as punctilious in observing certain little ceremonies when distinguished visitors arrive as are naval fleets. If some high official of a foreign country is staying in the house, it is the proper thing to display his nation's colors. As all big hotels are likely to entertain home and foreign diplomats, army or navy officers, or even members of royal families, you can see where there is a necessity for an assortment of flags.

"The hotel may not possess a complete outfit to begin with, but as time rolls along, and distinguished men of all lands are entertained, the collection of bunting is continually added to. Then there are the many fraternal organizations which make one hotel or another their headquarters on the occasion of annual celebrations. They usually have some flag or device which is swung to the breeze over the house on the days of the jollifications."

Mules' Brains

The Paris correspondent of the London Mail says that mules' brains make very good eating, and are frequently used instead of calves' brains in Parisian restaurants.

SLOTHS IN NEW YORK ZOO

Queer Family Called by Visitors the "Upside Downs" Came from Dutch Guiana.

Three very queer animals arrived recently at the New York zoological park and the people who visit them, says the Detroit News Tribune, call them the "upside downs." These creatures are sloths, a family of father, mother and baby sloth. They came from Dutch Guiana and walk with their heads down and their feet up. Never has a sloth lived more than three months after landing in this country, therefore the new arrivals are watched with great anxiety, for it is said they hardly possess brains enough to know whether they should eat or starve. They are fed a sort of gruel made of oatmeal and milk and a few vegetables. One sloth seems unusually fond of carrots, while the baby of the party nibbles with considerable zest at crisp lettuce leaves.

When they first came the sloths were put in one cage, where they were immediately nicknamed the "upside downs" by the child visitors. As the result of several bad family jars, however, the male was put in a separate cage and the female and her baby were left alone.

It is said that the mother and her baby appear to have a wonderful amount of affection. As she hangs from a branch of the tree that was put in her cage the little one lies flat on her breast, with its little legs clasped tightly about her. The long, gray hair of their bodies is so intermingled that at first it is hardly possible to distinguish one from the other.

At times the mother will hang from the bough motionless, her head buried between her forelegs. Then slowly she will thrust out her round snout and display her eyes, that are as pink as those of a ferret, and her cheeks and chin that are as bald as an ape's. The little one will squirm about and gaze stupidly into space. Then the mother will swing out its hooked feet after the other and move lazily along, as if it had the vaguest sort of realization of its captivity.

Should it reach the ground, it helplessly pulls itself along on its stomach, at the first opportunity reaching out for something to hang from. At night the sloths are most active, whereas in the middle of the day the adults will hang for hours with their hooked feet together and their bodies bumped up like bags. The female sloth, which is larger than the male, is about equal in size to a wildcat. Its body, however, is much slimmer and its legs long and tapering.

In the tropics the sloth lives almost entirely in the tree tops, traveling for miles through the forest by swinging from one bough to another.

AGE DOESN'T AFFECT SIGHT

"Eyes Are No Longer Supple," Says Oculist—Glasses of Little Assistance.

"Old age doesn't affect the sight exactly," said an oculist. "It affects certain muscles.

"An old man, for instance, can sit down the same as a young man, but he sits down slowly and stiffly, because his sitting-down muscles are no longer supple. So it is with an old man's eyes. They see quite as well as a young man's, but the muscles that do the focusing—the muscles, that is to say, that alter the degree of convexity of the crystalline lens—are hardened, and don't work well. The strain that the managing of these muscles demand of an old man gives him a headache. Hence he adopts glasses, which do his focusing for him—one pair focussing for reading, another pair focussing for long distances.

"Old age glasses don't exactly improve the sight. They only take the place of certain muscles that age has stiffened. They don't even do that, though, unless they are cleaned frequently. Glasses should be kept perfectly clean—should be cleaned when in use once an hour with silk handkerchief, never use a linen one."

Carpet Made in 1834.

On exhibition at Coventry, England, is a pile of carpet, 24x7½ feet, which was made in Lahore in 1834 for a director of the old East India company. The beautiful coloring is still perfect.

HAT CAUSE OF BALDNESS.

Head-Piece of Modern Man Is Gradually Eliminating Much-Needed Hair.

There is every reason to believe that primitive man had a thick and abundant head of hair, and that this natural clothing of the scalp is diminishing among civilized peoples, and will end by disappearing altogether, which would certainly not be advantageous from an aesthetic point of view. The cause of this disappearance of the hair, according to the doctors, must be sought in the very conditions of civilization and in the customs it has introduced. One of the customs especially hurtful to the hair is the hat, and, above all, the masculine hat; so we see man's hair suffer more than woman's.

The hat produces baldness by two different methods. First, by creating about the head an atmosphere which is fatally warm and moist, and which prevents the penetration of the rays of light that are so fatal to bacteria; the hat makes for the microbes a sort of improvised boiler, which is extremely favorable to their development, and it is known that microbes play an important role in the production of baldness. If it had been desired to foster the existence of microbes capable of living upon the scalp or in the hair, a more favorable means for their protection and multiplication than the hat could not have been found. Again, the hat, holding its place upon the head solely by pressure, exerts a second pernicious influence upon the scalp; it compresses the arteries and the veins; it impedes the circulation of the blood and, consequently, the nutrition of the organs which produce the hair. It is, therefore, doubly desirable that the reign of the hat should cease, in the case of men—for with women the hat is so light a thing that it can exert only a trifling proportion of the ravages it is responsible for in men—and that this garment should be renounced or replaced by some less injurious article. As a matter of fact, men would be very healthy with bare heads. The hair would be strengthened and would serve as a hat; it would only be necessary to protect the head against the rays of the sun in summer in order to avoid sunstroke. It is true the public imagines that it would catch cold more easily, but this is a mistake, a draught alone is not enough to give cold; a microbe is absolutely necessary. From the hygienic point of view there are fewer inconveniences in going with the head bare than in carrying about upon it a hothouse for microbes.

DEAF; YET HEAR IN CLAMOR

Strange Physical Paradox Among People Who Are Averse to Quiet Places.

"Persons who have worked years in mills and shops develop a peculiarity of hearing that is paradoxical," remarked the manager of a big manufacturing establishment to a Philadelphia Record writer.

"They are almost deaf at home and wonderfully acute of hearing in the workroom. In a quiet place, where the ordinary tone of voice is distinct and sharply defined above all other sounds, they have to be almost yelled at by others conversing with them, and yet in the din of a mill they can carry on a conversation where the average person could not hear a shout.

"Often a visitor comes here to see a friend at work, and while the visitor half the time is unable to hear his own remarks above the racket, the worker catches the words without difficulty. Yet if the two were in a room away from the mill it would be the mill employee who would have trouble in going ahead with the conversation, unless loud speech was resorted to.

"Away from the clatter of machinery, to which his ears have been accustomed for years, the mill hand is more or less deaf, but in the midst of the rumble his sense of hearing is very keen. It's odd, but it's a fact."

Prefer the Cure.

Patent medicine manufacturers pile up fortunes because the public would rather pay a dollar for a pound of cure than ten cents for an ounce of prevention. — Chicago Daily News.

POWER IN BIG NAVY GUNS.

Machinist Explains Reason for Great Increase in Weight of Eminent Cannons.

Speaking of the development in the defensive powers of the modern guns of the American navy, as illustrated at the Washington naval gun factory, an experienced machinist and advance worker said to a Washington Star reporter:

"This general development is not due alone to improvements in guns or powder, or projectiles, but to the simultaneous and progressive development of all three.

"Less than half a century ago the heaviest gun known was the 68-pounder. This gun was about nine inches bore, and fired a 68-pound projectile, with a 16-pound charge of gunpowder, but was powerless against four and a half inches of wrought iron. Our battleships to-day are equipped with 12-inch guns, which, with a charge of 400 to 425 pounds of smokeless powder, are capable of driving an 850-pound projectile through 51 inches of solid wrought iron. In olden times it required nearly four minutes to load and fire one of the now obsolete 68-pounders, while the new and terrible 12-inch guns can be loaded and fired in about 50 seconds with perfect safety.

"If a projectile from one of the old 68-pounders hit its mark, it was due to good luck, rather than to good management, but it is a matter of proud record that our modern 12-inch guns have scored seven hits in less than six minutes at target practice, while our six-inch gun has a record of nine shots and nine hits in one minute."

The statistics of a modern 12-inch breech-loading rifle, as turned out by the naval gun factory, makes an interesting showing. Its weight is 101,300 pounds, or over 45 tons. Its total length, 36 feet 8 inches. The greatest diameter of gun body is 45 inches; total length of bore, 419.20 inches; capacity of chamber, 12.043 cubic inches; total capacity of bore, 51.355 inches; travel of projectile, 346.06 inches; weight of charge, service velocity, 425 pounds; weight of projectile, 850 pounds; ratio of projectile weight to weight of gun, 1:119; chamber pressure, 15 tons; muzzle velocity (service), 2,100 feet per second; thickness of steel which shell will perforate at muzzle 24.16 inches; at 1,500 yards 20.94 inches.

CHIROPODIST IN THE ARMY

Every German Infantry Regiment Has a Foot Specialist—Custom Is Growing.

"Every German infantry regiment has its chiropodist," said a military attaché, "and it won't be many years before all infantry regiments will have their chiropodists, too.

"A foot soldier's efficiency, you see, depends upon his feet. If he gets sore feet, he can't march well—can't advance fast, can't retreat fast. And his feet are apt, unless they are scientifically looked after, to get sore; for it is one thing, you know, to use the feet in an ordinary way, walking three or four miles a day in a city, and it is quite another thing to use them in military fashion, walking 15, 20 and sometimes 30 miles a day over rough country, carrying luggage besides.

"A soldier's feet need looking after, need inspection, just as his gun does. Hence Germany has introduced chiropodists into her army, and the chiropodists hold feet inspection daily. They see that the shoes fit well, that the stockings are in good condition, that blisters and corns don't form.

"It is odd to see in Germany a line of privates having their feet inspected. This sight, though, will be a universal one ere long, and then its appearance of oddity will depart from it."

Friendly Comment.

Muggsy—I'm going to thrash Biffins the first time I meet him. Wiggins—Because why? "He's been telling it around that I'm a liar and a scoundrel." "Is that so? Why, I never heard anyone say you were a scoundrel." —Chicago Daily News.

British Nonfighting Ships.

There are about 80 ships in the British navy which are too weak to fight and too slow to run away. There are as few as 9,000 men employed on these non-fighting ships.

RAREST PLANT IN WORLD.

Big Pitcher Which Catches and Digests All Kinds of Insects Has No Peer.

Both the greenhouse collection and the herbarium of the University of Pennsylvania are much the richer for the long journey from which Dr. J. M. Macfarlane, professor of botany and director of the botanic garden, has returned, says the Philadelphia Record. He secured and brought with him several large collections of rare plants in the growing state and gathered a large collection of herbarium specimens obtained during seven weeks.

Already the newly arrived plants have been placed in the greenhouses in connection with biological hall and are recovering from any slight mal de mar they may have felt. On the bench alongside the sarracenias, or trumpet plants—a collection for which the university is famous—is the large-leaved butterwort (pinguicula cordata), a pretty fly-catcher native to Mexican bogs, but hitherto rarely seen in botanical collections. From the center of broad-spreading, fleshy leaves of pale-green color starts a flower-stalk bearing a dainty rosy blossom, the leaves of which are covered with viscid glands that entangle and later digest insects. Near it is the West Australian pitcher plant (cephalotus follicularis), the pitchers of which are of rich green crimson color, spotted and blotched with white markings.

Though widely separated geographically from the East Indian pitcher plants, this has also developed the curious habit of catching and digesting insects. Closely related to our native trumpet plants of the south is the Roraima pitcher plant (heliamphora nutans), the rarest plant in the world. This treasure was a special gift from Mr. Lynch, curator of the Cambridge botanic garden, England, and hitherto he has been the only successful cultivator of the type. It was first discovered by one of the brothers Schomburgk, of Venezuela boundary fame, when he scaled the precipitous sides of Mount Roraima, near the confines of Brazil and Venezuela. Recent expeditions to the mountain brought home a supply of the living plant, and one of these is now an occupant of the university greenhouses. Each pitcher leaf has fine, down-directed hairs that give a shaggy appearance to the interior, and which, while assisting the doomed insects on their downward path, make return impossible.

HE FEARS ALL FOREIGNERS

Uncle Zachariah Falls Into Sad Suspicion of Huns and Slavs in Pennsylvania.

A well-known character in Blankville, Uncle Zachariah, has fallen into a sad suspicion of the new Americans that come from Hungary, Russia, Syria and Italy, relates the Brooklyn Eagle. He has an uneasy sense that he is going to be held up and robbed, if not killed, by these strangers, so he avoids their company as far as possible. Not long ago he paid a visit to a relative in Pennsylvania, where the Huns and Slavs are employed in large numbers, and he was perceptibly relieved when the visit was over, and he was back in Vermont. As he entered his native state the train stopped at a wood and water station for a minute, and Uncle Zachariah put his head out of the car window. A railroad section boss was instructing a couple of track hands what to do with a pile of ties, and incidentally he was ripping the English language into pieces, his remarks being mostly unprintable. Uncle Zachariah listened with wide ears, and an expression as of a person inhaling a delicious perfume. "Ah!" he exclaimed, "it's good to be back in God's country."

Black Sheep.

Plodding Pete—Have you got enny sisters or brothers?

Dismal Dave—Naw. I had a brother onst, but he disgraced de fambly an' we had t' disown him.

"How did he do it?"

"Went an' got a job in a soap fact'ry." —Chicago Daily News.

People in British South Africa.

Census returns show that there are 1,135,016 white and 5,198,175 colored people in British South Africa.

Are You Looking Ahead?

To the man looking ahead the Southwest has an urgent invitation. The opportunity is today when investment chances are good and homes can be purchased at from one-tenth to one-half the prices asked in the North and East.

To the Homeseeker.

Through the M. K. & T. Land Bureau, thousands of acres of rich farm lands (improved and unimproved), located along the line of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas R.R. in Missouri, Kansas, Indian Territory, Oklahoma and Texas, are now offered for sale. The lands are especially adapted to the growing of corn, wheat, oats, fruits, vegetables, rice, cotton, sugar cane and for stock raising. The lands are well located as to markets, schools, etc.

To the Investor.

All over the Southwest, cities and towns are growing up, expanding, requiring more, demanding more, peopled by eager, pushing, wide-awake citizens, who see the virtue of encouraging enterprises of every kind, the need of getting more and better facilities, and more hands to develop the country. The oil and gas fields of Kansas, Indian Territory and Oklahoma are practically new and offer wonderful opportunities for development along commercial lines.

BRIEFLY THE CONDITION IS THIS: The Southwest is really in need of nothing save people. More men are wanted. In the Southwest are vast areas of unimproved land—land not yielding the crops of which it is capable. The same thing, in a different way, is true of the towns. Few lines of business are adequately represented. There are openings for all sorts of mills and manufacturing plants, for small stores of all kinds, for banks, newspapers and lumber yards. Mechanics and professional men, both are in demand.

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